

**REMARKS**

Claims 1 - 18 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1 - 18 are amended to remove reference numerals that refer to the figures. Prompt and favorable consideration on the merits is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



James A. Oliff  
Registration No. 27,075

Jessie O. Collier  
Registration No. 53,839

SCOTT M. SCHULTE  
REGISTRATION NO. 44,325

JAO:JOC/jrb

Enclosure:  
Abstract

Date: May 1, 2006

**OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC**  
**P.O. Box 19928**  
**Alexandria, Virginia 22320**  
**Telephone: (703) 836-6400**

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